

**Opening Statement of Tom Davis**  
**Subcommittee Hearing**  
**The Paperwork Reduction Act at 25**  
**March 8, 2006**

- First, I'd like to thank you, Chairman Miller, for the great work your Committee is doing to explore and document the challenges federal agencies are facing in complying with the Paperwork Reduction Act.
- Thanks also to the witnesses testifying before the Committee today. We appreciate the considerable advice you can offer this Committee on how we can make the PRA actually achieve the goals it was enacted to achieve.
- When the Paperwork Reduction Act was amended in 1995, Congress believed it had finally established a system that would decrease the reporting burden on the American public and increase and improve electronic information gathering and sharing.
- However, although agencies have been complying with the letter of the PRA, and the E-Gov Act which followed, there has been little, if any, noticeable progress in lessening the reporting burden on American businesses.
- So clearly something is wrong.
- Remember, the problem of out of control regulation is not just a problem for the bottom line in the Board Room – it's a problem for American workers' unemployment line as well.
- The good news is American workers and American businesses have learned an important lesson in the last eleven years since we passed the PRA – if the Government cannot get its act together and discipline itself to control the red tape, then American businesses can and will find places where they can operate profitably.
- American businesses can compete in the world marketplace because many have reshaped themselves to respond to the new business environment.
- This hearing will inform our Committee as to how the Federal government can reshape itself as well - to be leaner, nimbler and smarter. I look forward to hearing the testimony of these witnesses today and learning how we can improve a system that, despite our best intentions, remains outdated and overly burdensome.